GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3054
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
AIDS AFFECTED PERSONS
Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has hired the services of any foreign/external agency to determine the number of AIDS affected persons in the country announced by the Hon'ble Health Minister in reply to a Starred Question on August 18, 2004, followed by a PIB, released the same day;

(b) if so, the details/outcome thereof; and

(c) the names of the external and local agencies that participated in the exercise and also the name of the funding Agency?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) : No, Sir, the Government of India presently has not hired the services of any foreign/external agency to determine the number of AIDS affected persons in the country. However, Government has strengthened the HIV surveillance activities in the country by increasing the number of sentinel sites as well as ensuring the quality of data through central and regional monitoring mechanism. The National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, National Institute of Medical Statistics and five regional Institutes have been entrusted with the task of monitoring & supervision. A task force committee under the chairmanship of Director General ICMR with representatives from Academic Institutions, WHO and UNAIDS Geneva has also been constituted to review the ongoing process of Surveillance.

As per sentinel surveillance report 2005, there are an estimated 5.2 million HIV infected person in the country. An additional 434 sites have also been added for conducting sentinel surveillance during the year 2006